

USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File

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FILE #2-12
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this version
sent forward to
DDST by DSA.
Jos.

SUMMARY OF A-12/SR-71 ACCIDENTS

I. Aircraft S/N 123 (A-12)

A. Date: 26 May 1963

25X1A

B. Pilot: [REDACTED] Project Pilot

C. Location: 14 NM south-southwest of Wendover, Utah.

Aircraft totally disintegrated and destroyed on impact.

D. Findings: The primary cause of this accident was materiel failure, Pitot System.

E. Pilot Status: Successfully ejected at approximately 36,000 feet. Only injuries sustained were a mild back soreness.

II. Aircraft S/N 133 (A-12)

A. Date: 9 July 1964

25X1A

B. Pilot: [REDACTED] LAC Test Pilot

25X1A

C. Location: [REDACTED] (approach end of runway-approximately one mile) Aircraft was totally destroyed.

D. Findings: The primary cause of this accident was materiel. The outboard elevon servo valve stuck in the partially open position.

E. Pilot Status: Successful ejection at approximately 200 feet. No injuries sustained, minimal muscular strain from ejection and parachute opening forces.

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III. Aircraft S/N 126 (A-12)

A. Date: 28 December 1965

25X1A

B. Pilot: [REDACTED] Project Pilot

25X1A

C. Location: [REDACTED] Aircraft destroyed, flying time 30 seconds.

D. Findings: Primary cause, maintenance error. Wiring for Yaw and Pitch rate gyros of the Stability Augmentation System was connected in reverse.

E. Pilot Status: Successful ejection at approximately 150 - 200 feet above the ground. Injuries sustained - bruise on right hand and right foot from initial ground impact.

IV. Aircraft S/N 61-7952 (#2003) (SR-71)

A. Date: 25 January 1966

25X1A

B. Crew: Pilot, [REDACTED] (LAC Test Pilot)

25X1A

RSO, [REDACTED] (LAC Engineer)

**C. Location: Harding New Mexico - 350°/107 NM, Cannon AFB
Aircraft totally destroyed and strewn over an area approximately 16 miles long and 5 miles wide.**

D. Findings: Primary cause, fuel distribution in flight resulted in unsafe C.G.

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E. Crew Status:

Pilot - Forcibly ripped from seat through lap belt and shoulder harness by wind and pressure forces as aircraft disintegrated at approximately [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

[REDACTED]. Injuries sustained - minor contusions and abrasions.

25X1A

25X1A

RSO - Fatal ejection at approximately [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Manner in which seat was fired is unknown.

V. Aircraft S/N 135 (TAGBOARD)

25X1A

A. Date: 30 July 1965

**B. Crew: Pilot [REDACTED] LAC Test Pilot
 LCO, [REDACTED] LAC Launch Control Officer**

C. Location: Approximately 75 NM off California coast in Pacific Missile Range. Aircraft destroyed, sank and never recovered from deep water.

D. Findings: Primary cause, during live launch, malfunction caused drone to hit mother ship causing loss of control.

E. Crew Status:

Pilot - Successfully ejected and picked up in life raft by chopper. Injuries sustained - minor.

Launch Control Officer - Fatal ejection. Death due to drowning.

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